



ANNE GEDDES

Our society needs to examine itself. If we have an attitude of children as powerless and we have rights over them, then abuses are invited. This attitude is reflected in the recommended parenting styles of the Greens and Biddulphs.

### **EXPLOITING CHILD NUDITY!**

In March 1994 the Children's Interests Bureau had brought to its attention a post card showing in graphic detail a naked little boy urinating which was readily available in card shops.

The Bureau requested that the sale of such cards be investigated by the Classification of Publications Board. The card has since been assigned a "Refused Publication" on the grounds that it depicted exploitative child nudity.

*The Bureau would be interested to hear of any other publications that are of concern to readers.*

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## **REVIEW OF SUSPENSION AND EXCLUSION GUIDELINES IN QUEENSLAND STATE SCHOOLS**

Under Queensland law students in primary and state secondary schools are obliged to attend a school until they are 15. Exclusions are to be formally conducted pursuant to Education Department Guidelines and are to be used as a last resort only. Despite this, an eight year old Brisbane girl earned some unwanted notoriety recently after she was heralded as the youngest student ever to be excluded from a Queensland state school. The girl said that whilst she had been asked to leave two other schools, this was the first time she had been formally excluded.

This is not an isolated case. Principals and teachers are increasingly coming under fire for demonstrating a "nimby" attitude towards troublesome children - not in my backyard. Hundreds of children every year are excluded from Queensland schools, many others are merely arbitrarily dismissed by principals and teachers who flagrantly disregard their legislative obligations to institute a formal exclusion process.

On the other hand, Mr Pat Comben, the Minister for Education, recently announced that teachers who are accused of criminal offences will now be assigned desk duties until the necessary investigations are completed, a sensible manifestation of the right of innocence until guilt is proven. Unfortunately, this does not apply to students, who remain idle and without support for the duration of the formal exclusion process, which can drag on for months.